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STAR OF MYSORE

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MYSURU Monday 24th May 2021
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Tepid response
for MMC&RI's Medical and Nursing staff recruitment drive
Just 27 aspirants turn up for 242 posts till 11.30 am

MMC&RI authorities interviewing for doctor's post this morning.

Mysuru, May 24 (RK&DM)- The COVID scare has not only struck common man but also the Medical and Nursing fraternities, as hardly a handful of aspirants turned up at Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC&RI) for recruitment of Specialist doctors, Junior doctors and Nursing staff through a direct interview this morning, for posting at COVID Hospitals.

The scare seemed to be very much evident as the MMC&RI's recruitment drive saw only a few aspirants attending the interview that began at 10.30 am. Interview will continue through the day.

The MMC&RI had issued a notification of the recruitment a few days ago for appointment to 18 posts of Senior Resident (Medicine) with qualification of M.D. in General Medicine, 14 posts of Senior Resident (Pulmonology) with M.D. in Pulmonary Medicine, 22 posts of Senior Resident (Anaesthesia) with M.D. in Anaesthesiology, 29 posts of Junior Resident with MBBS and 159 posts of Nursing Officer with GNA or B.Sc (Nursing).

(See RECRUITMENT on page 6)

Monthly salary fixed by MMC&RI

Senior Resident doctors	Rs. 2.5 lakh
Junior Resident doctors	Rs. 1.10 lakh
Nursing staff	Rs. 28,000

Doctors unavailable even for Rs. 1.5 lakh pay per month
Make 5-year rural service compulsory for Govt. quota medicos: District Minister writes to CM

Mysuru, May 24 (YDS& BCT)- Karnataka has always failed to make substantial budgetary allocations to education and health sector and whatever minimum allocations that have been done, have not even been used to appoint qualified doctors, nurses and paramedical staff — the result is evident now with the State battling acute shortage of Government doctors in every district including Mysuru. Even if doctors are appointed, they are only hired on temporary basis robbing them of all perks and making them to migrate to private sector.

Most Government Hospitals in city, towns and villages across the district are grappling with shortage of doctors, nurses, paramedics and lab technicians. The problem has festered over the years, and now with a pandemic raging, it has shown the Government in extremely poor light. Result of this callousness is that patients, a majority of whom are from economically weaker sections and who depend on Government Hospitals for treatment, have to suffer.

Successive Governments have done little to bridge the shortfall of doctors and now, no doctor is forthcoming to serve Govt. Hospitals during pandemic time even if they are paid Rs. 1.5 lakh per month and Rs. 50,000 for nurses.

To ease the problem now at the eleventh hour, Co-operation and District in-Charge Minister S.T. Somashekar has suggested to the Government that compulsory rural service of five years must be availed from medical graduates who have studied under the Government quota.

(See DOCTORS on page 6)

Third wave hitting children:
City Paediatricians, Politicos discuss

Managing Director of Skanray, Vishwaprasad Alva, explaining about the ventilator during District Minister S.T. Somashekar's visit to Skanray in Hebbal yesterday as MP Pratap Simha and others look on.

SUGGESTIONS from Experts, Child Specialists

- Awareness on third wave must be spread among parents
- Parents must be barred from taking their children to marriages, birthdays and events
- One uniform government order must be passed ahead of third wave instead of conflicting orders
- Government should not open schools in haste
- Separate facilities must be created for children
- 40 COVID-friendly centres must be opened in Mysuru; schools can be used for this
- N-95 masks as per the size of child faces must be mass produced
- Triaging for children will be a critical aspect
- Ventilators used for adults cannot be used for children

Mysuru, May 24 (YDS&BCT)- Amid concerns over a probable third wave of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Centre has clarified that children are not immune from the infection but the impact is minimal. If children get affected by COVID, either there will be no symptoms or there will be minimal symptoms. They do not require hospitalisation generally, the Centre has stated.

In the light of several reports over children likely to be worse affected and probably learning bitter lessons from unpreparedness to tackle the second wave that has caused widespread devastation, the authorities seem to have woken up even to the slightest alert on the third wave that has predicted its effect on children.

(See CHILDREN on page 6)

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Monday 24th May 2021

Oxygen has been supplied across the country on a war-footing: Anurag Thakur

Hamirpur (HP), May 24 (UNI)- Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur has said that oxygen has been made available in all parts of the country as per the demand on a war-footing.

While addressing a virtual meeting with the party activists on Sunday night, he said that in order to win and save lives during the second wave of Corona pandemic, the need for medical oxygen was felt throughout the country, which has been provided.

He said that during the last one-and-a-half years, the pandemic has shaken the whole world and presented a very big challenge to mankind. He said during the second wave, the increased cases across the country were the result of the negligence that was shown by everyone after the weakening of the first wave. He exhorted party cadres in general and common people in particular to be vigilant while dealing with Corona-related issues.

The Minister said that many resource-rich countries of the world like the United States of America could not survive the severe outbreak of Coronavirus but in India people showed their grit and their capacity how to deal with the virus.

Whereas it seemed necessary to provide ration to the needy along with mask, sanitiser, PPE kits in the first wave last year, this time it proved to be necessary to ensure the arrangement of the oxygen cylinder and oxygen plant during the second wave, he added. He said that where the country used to consume around 1,000 tons of oxygen before April, 2020, this figure had increased to 9,000 tones now.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

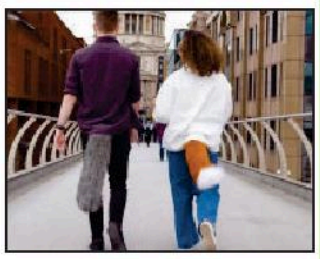
Currently, India is on its knees, rocked by a new vicious strain of a virus on a rampage which has led to a national catastrophe and a terrifying spike in the infection and mortality rate. Every time somebody calls, sends a message or puts up a desperate post on social media it is either a plea for help or dire tidings. The worst part is this unmitigated disaster could have been averted with a little advance planning and common sense. The warning signs were there after all, but the government was busy patting itself and sanctioning the building of Central Vista to commemorate its successes. The citizenry, convinced that 'Coronasura' had been beaten, engaged in reckless, irresponsible behaviour. Now the entire nation is besieged by disease and heartbreak. Now more than ever, we need to believe that we can still turn things around. To do that, we need to have faith in ourselves and those around us. We need to pitch in and help in whatever way we can. Share information and resources on social media, not vitriol and fake news. If possible help by preparing nutritious meals for the sick and frontline workers, instead of criticising others. Reach out to the less fortunate with money or timely aid and help them access essentials like food, medicine, a good internet connection or a lifesaving vaccination shot. Amplify the voices of those in need and question those in power when confronted with evidence of incompetence or rampant corruption.

If you don't feel like doing any of these things because you are scared senseless and you just want to stay at home and vegetate in front of Netflix for a momentary respite from a world that is crumbling around you, that is fine too. At times like this, we need to support each other. And when it gets to be too much, let us remember that the bad thing about good times is they don't last and the good thing about bad times is they don't last either.

— Anuja Chandramouli in The New Indian Express

NEWS SPARKLERS

Want to have a tail, this is for you



London: The Tail Company recently unveiled its newest creation, the miTail, an animatronic tail for humans, which can move all by itself or via smartphone commands. The Tail Company has been in the business of creating the most realistic human tails for over 15 years. Its latest creation, the miTail, launched on Kickstarter 2 weeks ago and was funded in under two hours. Apparently, the tail-wearing community is bigger than any of us ever imagined. Whether you need a tail for cosplaying projects or just enjoy being able to wag your tail, I think you'll find the miTail pretty cool.

miTail is controlled by an app, for Android and iOS, which allows users to select from a variety of options, but because controlling the tail with manual commands can be tedious, the miTail also has a no-phone mode which will give it a life of its own. 60 seconds after activation, it will start moving by itself at different speeds, with random motions, emulating a real tail.

Buys football club for his overweight son

Beijing: A Chinese entrepreneur recently bought a second division football club just so he and his overweight son could play in official matches.

Shihua, is a 35-year-old entrepreneur with a passion for football. His biggest regret in life has always been not being able to participate in official competitions, but he realized he could play by buying his own football club and pressuring the coach to include him in the team. Now, both Shihua and his 126-kilogram-heavy son are part of the team.

He's son reportedly weighs 126 kilograms and judging by the clips of him playing, he's no Messi on the pitch. Still, his teammates can't really complain; not if they want to keep their jobs, anyway.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Do you know the benefits of flax seeds? They reduce the serum cholesterol, helps in improving HDL (good cholesterol)and inflammatory markers, improves glucose tolerance and protects from breast and prostate cancer. It can be consumed as chutney and used as salad dressing or added to a smoothie.

By Kavya J. - Department of Nutrition & Dietetics

COLUMBIA ASIA

COLUMBIA ASIA HOSPITAL - MYSORE

(A unit of Manipal Hospitals)

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

New studies show that Americans are snacking, eating and consuming beverages outside of meal times more than ever. Snacking now accounts for over 25% of an American's daily calorie intake. At 580 extra calories, snacking has become a fourth meal.

COVID-19 UPDATE - MYSURU

DATES	MAY 22	MAY 23
Day's Positive Cases	2,526	2,222
Total Positive Cases	1,24,513	1,26,735
Day's Discharges	2,094	1,270
Total Discharges	1,10,028	1,11,298
Day's Deaths	9	22
Total Deaths	1,474	1,496
Total Active Cases	13,011	13,941

NOTE: Figures as per Government Media Bulletin

Talent Hunt for School students

Mysuru, May 24- The Institution Innovation Council (IIC) of Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering (VVCE), Mysuru is organising VVCE Talent Hunt - Chintanam for students of classes 5th to 9th standard in Mysuru district. It aims to stimulate student's innovative and creative thinking abilities during present day scenario.

Students can showcase their ideas on the given interesting topics through a small video.

Participants shall be awarded with certificates and attractive prizes. Interested may register their names before May 28 and get more information via *bit.ly/vvce-chintanam*.

For further details contact, V. Mayur on Mob: 91139-21131 and A.N. Mahadeshwara on Mob: 96635-62577.

The faculty coordinators of the event are Dr. C. Lokesh and Dr. S.A. Mohan Krishna; Conveners are Dr. B. Sadashive Gowda, Principal, VVCE, Dr. G.B. Krishnappa, President, IIC - VVCE and Dr. P. K. Umesha, Vice-President, IIC - VVCE.

REALLY...?

- ***The first chair dates back around 5,000 years, back to the times of Ancient Egypt.***
- ***The word 'chair' comes from the Latin word 'cathedra', which means to sit.***
- ***Chairs didn't become popular until the 16th century; before that, people used to sit on the floor at all times.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Husband returns from office and is dumbstruck as the house was neat. He asks his wife: *Darling, was WhatsApp server down today?*

Wife: *No, I lost my phone charger and I had to put things in their place looking for it !!*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 72.91
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 103.22
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 19.84
1 Euro	= Rs. 88.84

VOICE OF THE READER

Neglected Govt. buildings

Sir,

This has reference to the news item ***"Be prepared to increase oxygenated beds, ICUs and ventilators: District Minister"*** *(SOM* dated May 15). People are running from pillar to post to find beds with health infrastructure to escape from the deadly second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. Many have died while searching for timely medical attention for days together.

This huge building belonging to Mysuru City Corporation was serving people residing in semi-slums like Ganigarakeri, Koramarakeri, Bestarakeri, Darjigalakeri, etc., belonging to various down-trodden communities of Tilaknagar in Mandi Mohalla area in the heart of the city, as a **Community Health Centre** with maternity facility, polio drops centre, family planning centre, medicine distribution centre etc.

The building is about 30-years-old and has a number of rooms in good condition. Located on Pulikeshi Road near Deaf and Dumb School on Sayyaji Rao Road, it is built in 100'X85' area and has very good accommodation.

The Centre, being managed by Department of Community Medicine of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, had two doctors, two compounders, two nurses, a few ayahs and their pay and other expenses for running the health centre was being met by the City Corporation.

The Health Centre was benefiting the poorest of the poor people and for the past few years, it has been closed for reasons not available in public domain. People of this area are now forced to travel all the way to N.R. Mohalla PHC for their medical attention and to avail other Government health benefits.

Similarly, another large **Centenary Hall** constructed about 20 years back to mark completion of 100 years of the Braille Press was never inaugurated and is lying idle ever since. It is located in the premises of the heritage building that houses Deaf and Dumb School which occupies more than 5 acres area on New Sayyaji Rao Road, near Bamboo Bazar signal light. This Centenary building, constructed by spending more than Rs.50 lakh in those days, is lying totally neglected now.

Similarly, the Residential Schools (now closed due to pandemic) for Deaf & Dumb children have large number of class rooms and can be temporarily converted into emergency COVID treatment centres. There are two large kitchens also within the premises.

I appeal to the District Minister, Deputy Commissioner, MP and MLAs to visit the above neglected Government buildings within the central business district, repair them on a war-footing and convert them into well-equipped oxygenated beds, ICUs with ventilators and NCD health care centres so that untimely deaths due to paucity of these facilities can be avoided.

—Vasanthkumar Mysoremath, Social Activist
Tilaknagar
20.5.2021

PM to inaugurate online portal of NCC Alumni Association in June second week

- PM Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to become first and second alumnus of the Association
- Calling ex-NCC Cadets of Mysuru Group to register as members

Mysuru, May 24- National Cadet Corps Alumni Association (NCC AA) is a registered association to involve the alumni of NCC in a more active and organised manner towards Nation Building and Community Development.

The formal launch of the NCC Alumni Association is planned in the second week of June wherein the Prime Minister will inaugurate the online Portal of NCC Alumni Association.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh have also given their consent to become the first and second alumnus of the Alumni Association respectively.

Given the fact that NCC is the largest uniformed organisation in the world, the formation of the NCC Alumni Association, in addition to binding the alumni at the National and Global level through various events and activities, will also provide an impetus towards further development of the NCC. Therefore, DG NCC hopes that maximum ex-Cadets register

Narendra Modi *Rajnath Singh*

PM Modi as NCC Cadet

themselves in the NCC Alumni Association as members.

NCC Group Headquarters Mysuru is responsible for the five districts of Karnataka — Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Mandya, Hassan and Chikmagalur. Presently, the units under the Mysuru Group are 13 Kar Bn NCC, 14 Kar Bn NCC, 15 Kar Bn NCC, 3 Kar Girls Bn NCC, 3 Kar Naval Unit NCC, 4 Kar Air Sqn NCC, 1 Kar Artillery Battery NCC and 1 Kar Engineer Company NCC. The ex-Cadets of these areas and units are requested to register on the portal once it is inaugurated and make this endeavour a grand success.

The link for registration is available on the DG NCC website *indiancc.nic.in/alumni*. On clicking the link on the website the home page of the NCC Alumni Association gets displayed. At the lower end of the page is a section of New Alumni Registration with a Call to Action button 'Register Now'.

On selection of Life Member option, an option to select State Directorate, Group & Unit will appear along with an option to select NCC Camps attended. The website registration form is self-explanatory.

In case of any issues, the ex-Cadets may approach the Commanding Officers of their Units.

QCareCentre to manage asymptomatic and mild COVID patients at Beedi Hospital

Mysuru, May 24- QCareCentre, a subsidiary of Kshiti Foundation, has joined hands with the District Administration to curb COVID-19 by adopting beds to manage asymptomatic and mild cases at N.R. Central Hospital for Beedi Workers (Beedi Hospital). The facility will have round-the-clock medical team, nutritious meals, and oxygen concentrators for emergency. It aims to encourage people to get quarantined and restrict the spread of the virus.

Speaking on the tie-up, NR Constituency MLA Tanveer Sait said: "As India fights this pandemic each one of us need to realise our capabilities to contribute towards the fight. Small efforts like washing hands, wearing a mask, and maintaining social distance are major steps towards the safety of our near and dear ones. Isolating ourselves as advised by the doctor is very important to curb the spread of the disease. I urge everyone to strictly adhere to the COVID-19 protocols and report immediately if any symptoms. We have joined hands with QCareCentre to provide you with timely assistance and treatment during these troubled times."

Supriya Dutta, Director of QCareCentre, said, "QCare Centre appreciates the efforts put by the N.R. Central Hospital and feels privileged to be a part of the endeavour to provide its support to promote isolation and quarantine to the needy. The COVID Mitra initiative is a great step towards proper triaging of the affected people. We are a small team of like-minded people from different backgrounds having the same intention to be able to fill in smaller requirements in the overall system to fight the pandemic."

Shilpa Nag, Commissioner, MCC, said that she was happy to have QCareCentre come forward and associate with the District Administration as it helps to manage the asymptomatic and mild patients at the N.R. Central Hospital.

The QCareCentre is supported by its on-ground NGO Members Dr. Gautam Das and Faraz Mohammed Ismail. Dy. Mayor Anwar Baig, Nodal Officer & TBO Dr. Shiraz Ahmed, Nodal Officer Dr. Hemanth and volunteers Mumtaz and Kushal Rao were present on the occasion.

NEWS BRIEFS

Release honorarium for ASHA workers: Former CM

Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday urged the State Government to immediately release the three months honorarium of ASHA workers. "The lives of ASHA workers who are dependent on the honorarium have become very difficult over the non-payment for three months," he said.

Free consultation for skin problems via WhatsApp

Dr. V. Lakshminarayana, MD.DVD of Yadatore Skin Clinic, Mysuru, will be providing free consultation for skin diseases via WhatsApp [94806-26622]. The patient has to provide name, age, sex and brief history of problem with four to six photos of affected skin, from different angles. No phone calls will be entertained, according to a press release from Dr. V. Laxminarayana.

'Tuber Man of Kerala' wins India Biodiversity Award

N.M. Shaji, fondly called 'Tuber Man of Kerala,' has been awarded the India Biodiversity Award 2021 in the individual category of 'Conservation of domesticated species.' Shaji, who conserves a wide array of around 200 tuber crops, including greater yam, lesser yam, elephant foot yam, arrow root, colocasia, sweet potato, cassava and Chinese potato, at his farm in Wayanad, has received State Awards seven times for his efforts.

WATER LEVEL

KABINI DAM

Maximum	:	2,284.00	feet
Today	:	2264.20	feet
Inflow	:	1,517	cusecs
Outflow	:	725	cusecs

HARANGI DAM

Maximum	:	2,859.00	feet
Today	:	2,822.16	feet
Inflow	:	99	cusecs
Outflow	:	80	cusecs

Tribals fight for livelihood in Corona-free Muthathi village

By M.K. Mohanraj

Mandya, May 24- As the State reels under the rampaging COVID-19 pandemic, around 150 tribal families in Muthathi forest area of Malvalli taluk in Mandya district are in deep distress.

Even as many villages in the district are gripped by the deadly pandemic, the remote village of Muthathi near Halagur in Malavalli taluk has thus far ensured that it is Corona free. However, the tribals of this village are fighting for two square meals a day in the absence of any source of income due to COVID-induced lockdown.

Muthathi Soliga tribal hamlet is located amidst the thick Muthathi forests located about 25 kms from Halagur and 100 kms from Mandya. Appart from Soligas, the village is inhabited by Girijans, Adivasis, Kadugolla and other tribal sects.

The lockdown has blocked all means of transport, both public and private, to tourist hotspot of Muthathi, which comes under Byadarahalli Gram Panchayat of Halagur hobli in Malavalli taluk.

The tribals here have to go to nearby places such as Halagur, Malavalli and Kanakapura in search of work and labour to eke out a living. Due to complete lockdown, these tribal people lost their income means and are virtually locked up in this remote area amid the forest. Also, neither the Government nor NGOs have come forward to provide food and other essentials to these hapless tribal families.

The problem is all the more compounded for them as they have to travel at least 15 kms to get foodgrains under PDS (Public Distribution System) at Fair Price Shop. With lockdown in force, buses have stopped plying to Muthathi, which has deprived the tribals of their only means of transport from their remote village. The tribals claim that subsidised foodgrains provided under the PDS is not sufficient for their daily needs.

Ravi, a member of Muthathi Gram Panchayat said that there are about 140 Soliga tribal families in Muthathi village. The people in this hamlet are not vaccinated yet as the village has no transport facilities. Pointing out that Muthathi is one of the top tourist spots in Mandya district, Ravi said that the Health authorities must take steps for vaccinating the tribals.

Noting that the Police and Forest Department officials have ensured that there is no public movement to Muthathi in the wake of lockdown, he said that the Gram Panchayt will take necessary measures for distribution of food kits soon.

Mahadevu, a villager of Muthathi, said that almost all villagers have lost their jobs or labour due to lockdown.

Maintaining that they have to travel 25 kms daily to find any work, he said that the Forest Department has restricted their movement as the village comes under forest area.

Alleging that no politician seems to be interested in addressing their issues, Mahadevu said that the nearest Fair Price Shop is 15 kms away from the village. As there is no transport facility, the authorities must take steps for delivering ration to the tribals at their doorstep, he said and asserted with a sense of authority that the village has not reported even a single Corona case so far.

He further said that the Government must come to their aid as they are finding it very difficult to eke out a living in the absence of any work or other sources of income.

'Engage small hospitals too for Corona treatment'

Mysuru, May 24 (MTY&DM)- With COVID case-load increasing by the day in the district, the Bed Management Task Force has decided to engage even small hospitals for treatment of the deadly pandemic.

Speaking at a Task Force meeting at the ZP Hall here yesterday, MUDA Chairman H.V. Rajeev, who is in-charge of Bed Management, said that thus far, hospitals having less than 50 beds in the district are not being utilised for COVID treatment. But as the case-load has not come down as yet and also in the backdrop of warnings of a probable third wave, it has been decided to engage small hospitals too in COVID treatment.

Pointing out that 43 hospitals having more than 50 beds are already engaged in COVID treatment, Rajeev said that there are about 62 hospitals with less than 50 beds in the district and these will be used for COVID treatment in phases.

Asking all the hospitals to engage in COVID treatment from now on, Rajeev suggested that small hospitals with 8 to 10 beds can partner with other hospitals for treatment.

Dr. Prasanna Shankar suggested that the shut down Mythri Hospital that has 20 beds can be readily utilised for COVID treatment, to which Rajeev said that the District Administration can take necessary measures in this regard after an inspection of the hospital.

MCC Commissioner Shilpa Nag said that with rising COVID cases, it has been decided to utilise small hospitals too for COVID treatment.

Pointing out that it has been planned to set up Child COVID Care Centres, she said that the co-operation of small hospitals was needed at this critical juncture in the battle against the deadly virus.

Stressing on the need for a co-ordinated fight against the pandemic, she observed that the services of the staff of Eye Hospitals can be utilised at COVID Care Centres.

Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) Chairman L.R. Mahadevaswamy, who is in-charge of ambulance services, Jungle Lodges and Resorts (JLR) Chairman M. Appanna, who is in-charge of conducting of last rites of COVID dead, Dr. P. Ravi, Nodal Officer for Private Hospital Beds and others were present.

Photographers-Videographers Assn. demands package

P. Mahesh

Mysuru, May 24 (MTY&DM)- The Mysuru District Photographers and Videographers Association has urged the Government to announce a financial package for photographers and videographers as they are facing a financial crisis with no work and income due to COVID-induced lockdown.

In a press release, Association President P. Mahesh said that the Government last week announced a package for the working class which is hard hit by the lockdown.

But in the absence of any functions, ceremonies, events and other programmes, the photographers and videographers too have been thrown out of work, resulting in loss of income, he noted.

Maintaining that there are 2,000 photographers and videographers in Mysuru city and another 2,000 in rural parts of the district, Mahesh pointed out that the Labour Board had listed photographers and videographers in Unorganised Sector in 2012-13.

But the Government seems to have ignored this fact in the announcement of the package, he said.

He appealed the Government to come to the rescue of photographers and videographers, who are left without any other source of livelihood, by announcing a financial package on the lines of the one that was announced by the Chief Minister for other categories of the Unorganised Sector.

Staff nurse ends life

Mysuru, May 24 (MK&KS)- A staff nurse, working at the District COVID Hospital on KRS Road here, committed suicide by hanging self at his house yesterday morning.

The deceased is Chethan Kumar (35), a resident of Kandaya Nagar in city.

Police said that the reason for Chethan to take the extreme step is yet to be known. A case has been registered at Kuvempunagar Police Station.

Minister instils confidence among COVID patients in K.R. Nagar

Mysuru, May 24 (SSV)- Co-operation and District-in-Charge Minister S.T. Somashekar, who visited several Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in K.R. Nagar Assembly Constituency yesterday, instilled confidence among COVID positive patients who are undergoing treatment.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that Mysuru district was reporting the highest number of positive cases after Bengaluru Urban and added that K.R. Nagar Taluk Health Officer must ensure more number of COVID and swab tests for the early detection of cases. "I will make a surprise visit to this taluk. So, complete house-to-house health survey before the end of this month. I compliment MLA S.R. Ramesh for converting his own building into a COVID Care Centre and providing free food and quality treatment from doctors. You write down the names of all those who helped hospitals during the current crisis. The District Administration will felicitate and give them letters of appreciation after the situation becomes normal," he added.

He thanked MLA Mahesh for doing yeomen service for the people of his Constituency and joining hands with the Government to provide help to the needy.

Refusing to comment on MLC Vishwanath's remarks on Chief Minister Yediyurappa on handling of COVID situation, Somashekar said that the former may have made such a statement based on wrong information. "This is not the right time to talk about politics as the immediate priority is to defeat the pandemic," he said.

Later, he visited the Government COVID Care Centre and spoke to patients whether they were getting good treatment and medicine from the District Administration.

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha said that the District Minister has been visiting all taluk health facilities twice in a month to see its condition and hearing problems. The pandemic has come under control in city due to concerted efforts. However, the number of Corona positive cases and deaths are increasing in villages. In the wake of this, instructions have been given strictly to ramp up tests, he added.

MLA S.R. Mahesh, SP C.B. Ryshyanth, Tahsildhar Manjula, Taluk Health Officer Dr. Mahendrappa, A. Hemanthkumar Gowda and others were present.

Tigress found dead in Bandipur

Gundlupet, May 24 (KS)- A tigress aged between 8 and 9 years was found dead in an elephant trench at Soranagudda Forest Area, Lakshmanapura Beat, Nugu Range of Hediyala Sub-Division in Bandipur Tiger Reserve on May 22.

The cracass of the tigress was found by the Forest Department staff, who were on their regular beat and informed the higher officials. Upon examining the body of the tigress, there were no traces of external injuries including wounds from snares nor does it seem to be a case of poisoning.

The skin and the claws were intact thus ruling out poaching and hence, the authorities suspect it to have died of natural causes.

Veterinarian Dr. Wasim Mirza of Bandipur Tiger Reserve, conducted post-mortem and the carcass was cremated by following the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). Viscera of the dead tigress has been sent to the laboratories for analysis to ascertain the cause of death.

Bandipur Project Tiger Director Natesha, Wildlife Warden Kruthika Alanahalli, NTCA representative R. Raghuram, localites and other Forest officials were present.

Third wave hitting children:
City Paediatricians, Politicos discuss

Vishwaprasad Alva, Skanray MD, addressing the meeting as District Minister S.T. Somashekar, MP Pratap Simha, MLAs Tanveer Sait and L. Nagendra, Mayor Rukmini Madegowda, MUDA Chairman H.V. Rajeev, SP C.B. Ryshyanth and others look on.

(Continued from page 1)

In this backdrop, Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar, accompanied by Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha, MLAs Tanveer Sait and L. Nagendra, Mayor Rukmini Madegowda, MUDA Chairman H.V. Rajeev, SP C.B. Ryshyanth and MCC Commissioner Shilpa Nag, yesterday visited Skanray Technologies in Hebbal Industrial area, a healthcare technology company that specialises in high frequency X-ray imaging systems, critical care, dental care and telemedicine devices.

Over 30,000 ventilators manufactured by this company were supplied under PM-CARES last year. Skanray facilitated the meeting with experts, paediatricians and doctors where best practices to combat COVID among children were listed out and discussed in detail. The company authorities also demonstrated the advanced equipment including the 'Skanlife', an IOT-based Mini Hospital where a patient can be treated without the presence of a doctor.

Marathon meeting

Somashekar held a three-hour-long high-level meeting with the delegation comprising expert doctors, technocrats and paediatricians including Founder and Managing Director of Skanray Vishwaprasad Alva, Dr. Shenoy and Dr. Bhuvaneshwar of Columbia Asia Hospital, Dr. Madhu Patel and Dr. M.R. Aiyappa from Brindavan Hospital, Dr. M.D. Ravi from JSS Hospital, Dr. Sudha Rudrappa, Medical Superintendent of Cheluvamba Hospital, Dr. Shivu from Gopala Gowda Shanthaveri Memorial Hospital, Dr. Mahadev and Dr. Girish. Over 29 delegates were present at the meeting.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Somashekar said that they had discussed in detail how to save children from the pandemic and if need be, one exclusive hospital will be reserved for children where all well-known paediatricians from the city can treat the children. Suggestions have also been aired to set up a separate COVID Care Centre for infected children for them to stay during infection period and also after they are cured, Somashekar said.

MP Pratap Simha said that the meeting was held to take stock of the situation in view of third wave threat that will probably affect children. "We are struggling to create infrastructure to be ready to face the onslaught of the third wave and we want to ensure that the situation does not go out of hand. We discussed triaging of infected children, requirement of ventilators and pulse oximetres, whether the existing ventilators and other equipment can be used for children, medicines to be used for kids and other related issues," he said.

Effect on children unlikely

Meanwhile, the Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) said that it was highly unlikely that the third wave would predominantly or exclusively affect children. "Children are as susceptible as adults and older individuals to develop infection but not severe disease. It is highly unlikely that the third wave will predominantly or exclusively affect the children," the IAP said in a statement.

The last Sero Survey by the Indian Council of Medical Research between December 2020 and January 2021 showed the percentage of infected children in the age group of 10-17 years was around 25 percent, which is the same as the adults, indicating while children are being infected as adults, they are not getting the severe disease, the statement said.

District, Rural Task Forces formed to fight third wave

Mysuru, May 24 (BCT)- A District-level Task Force has been formed by Minister S.T. Somashekar to combat the potential COVID third wave that is hanging like a Damocles' Sword.

The Task Force is headed by Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha, and has been tasked with formulating strategies, action plans and devise field-level action to effectively combat the virus.

Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner Shilpa Nag, Dr. Sudha Rudrappa, Medical Superintendent of Cheluvamba Hospital, Skanray Founder and Managing Director Vishwaprasad Alva and a couple of Paediatricians are other members. The Task Force will discuss the measures, means and precautions to be taken and will have to submit a report to the Government within a week.

For rural areas, one more Task Force has been made under the leadership of Zilla Panchayat CEO A.M. Yogesh who will be its Convener. Lok Sabha members of Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Mandya, MLAs and MLCs of Mysuru, Exhibition Authority Chairman Hemanth Kumar Gowda, Karnataka Compost Development Corporation Chairman Mahadevaiah, Khadi and Gramodyog Board Chairman Krishnappa Gowda, SP C.B. Ryshyanth and District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. T. Amarnath will be the other members of the Task Force.

The Task Force has been asked to monitor door-to-door survey in rural pockets to identify COVID patients, check the availability of facilities and medicines at rural hospitals and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and report the same to the Government.

DC's exclusion raises eyebrows

The exclusion of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rohini Sindhuri in the District-level Task Force formed by Minister S.T. Somashekar to fight the COVID third wave has raised eyebrows. Interestingly, MCC Commissioner Shilpa Nag figures in the Task Force.

As per protocol, senior IAS Officers of the District are always included in any Committee or Task Force that concerns the District. Here, surprisingly this unwritten rule has been given a go by.

Treat COVID patients in rural areas by using mobile units: Govt.

Bengaluru, May 24 (UNI) - The Government of Karnataka (GoK) has ordered treatment of COVID patients in rural areas through mobile vans by roping in final year Medical students.

The Government will use the State Disaster Response Fund to set up such mobile clinics at the State-level. While case numbers have dropped in Bengaluru Urban, several districts are recording a surge in COVID cases.

The mobile clinics, according to an order, will create awareness on COVID-19, conduct home visits to test anyone for COVID symptoms, conduct Rapid Antigen Tests for patients with symptoms, provide medical kits based on the severity of the patient's condition, among other duties. Each mobile clinic will have to visit three to four villages on a daily basis and conduct tests.

Tepid response for recruitment

(Continued from page 1)

The appointment was purely on a contract basis for a period ranging from 3 to 6 months, with postings at New Super Speciality Hospital, Trauma Care Centre, PKTB and ED Hospitals.

The MMC&RI had scheduled the direct interview at its premises at 10.30 am today. But an hour into the interview (till 11.30 am), only 20 aspirants had turned up for Nursing posts, while one candidate each for Senior Resident (Medicine) and Senior Resident (Pulmonology) and five aspirants for Junior Resident posts, had attended the interview. Interestingly, there was literally no response for Senior Resident (Anaesthesia) posts, as no candidate had turned up till then, according to sources. The aspirants were required to carry their academic records both in original and duplicate (photocopies) for scrutiny.

Sources in the MMC&RI attributed the lukewarm response to COVID scare as all those recruited will be deployed for service at COVID Care Centres and Hospitals coming under MMC&RI.

The recruitment committee is headed by MMC&RI Dean and Director Dr. C.P. Nanjaraj, with the Principal, Heads of all Departments and Medical Superintendents of all Hospitals attached to MMC&RI as members.

The MMC&RI has fixed a monthly salary of Rs. 2.5 lakh for Senior Resident doctors, Rs. 1.10 lakh for Junior Resident doctors and Rs. 28,000 for Nursing staff.

Doctors unavailable even for Rs. 1.5 lakh

(Continued from page 1)

"We are not getting doctors for Rs. 1.5 lakh per month and nurses for Rs. 50,000 per month. I have written to Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa to discuss the issue in the Cabinet and introduce a clause that will be binding on students seeking admission to medical courses under the Government quota, to serve in villages for five years after completion of their studies," District Minister Somashekar said.

The Government spends at least Rs. 40 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh on each medical student but the State is unable to secure their services as they go to urban areas and some prefer to go abroad, he added.

The talented lot must serve in the State and brain-drain must stop, the Minister said adding that many have failed to understand that the country will be strong if villages are strong and vibrant.

DC confident to make Mysuru District Corona-free by June end

Rohini Sindhuri visits Black Fungus Ward

DC Rohini Sindhuri** (right side wearing PPE suit) **along with MMC&RI Dean and Director Dr. C.P. Nanjaraj inspected the Black Fungus Ward at K.R. Hospital this morning and enquired the health of the patients.

Mysuru, May 24 (SBD&SSV)- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rohini Sindhuri has sought co-operation of everyone to make the District Corona-free by the end of June.

Speaking in Facebook live on measures taken by the District Administration to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic last evening, she said they have started the concept of 'COVID Mitra' for early detection of Corona positive cases. So far, 15,000 people have taken benefit of this facility. People with common ailments like fever, cough and cold can come and avail free treatment at *COVID Mitras*. People's co-operation was needed to win this battle against the pandemic, she added.

The DC said house-to-house health check-up drive has been going on since last 3-4 days which is likely to be completed by the end of this month. Besides, public campaign has been taken up on a large scale especially in rural areas, she said adding that medicines have been distributed free of cost to both primary and secondary contacts.

Continuing, the DC said it was heartening to note that not a single positive case has been reported in D.B. Kuppe Gram Panchayat limit, which has a population of 7,000. The Gram Panchayat has managed things very well. Self-discipline and staying separately were two important steps to keep the contagion at the bay, she added.

On vaccination, the DC said inoculation of people in the age group of 18 to 44 years has started three days ago and the Government has identified 20 categories of people to take vaccination on priority. The eligible beneficiaries must take the jab within a week to enable the priority groups to take vaccination. Stating that inoculation for 18 to 44 years age category will start in private sites soon, the DC said JSS Multi-Speciality Hospital will administer Covaxin while Apollo BGS Hospitals is giving Covishield. Meanwhile, Columbia Asia, Brindavan, Bhanavi, Gopala Gowda Shanthaveri Memorial Hospital, Cauvery and Ashakirana Hospitals too have been given permission to undertake vaccination, she added.

The DC said there are 8.5 lakh people above 45 years of age in the district of which nearly 6 lakh have taken the first dose. A total of 34,000 vaccines were available in the district of which 18,000 are in city. There is no shortage of vaccine and people must take the jab when their turn comes, she added.

Black Fungus treatment in Taluk Hospitals also

Bengaluru, May 24 (UNI) - The Karnataka Government has ordered that all the District and Taluk Hospitals treat Black Fungus (Mucormycosis) patients also.

In a circular, Additional Chief Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Department Jawaid Akhtar said the rise in the number of cases has prompted the Government to issue the new order. Earlier, treatment for Black Fungus was restricted to some notified Hospitals. "However, mucormycosis cases are being reported from almost all the Districts. All the Government Medical College Hospitals and District Hospitals are permitted to treat the infection," he said.

Taluk Hospitals with necessary infrastructure are requested to treat the infection. Bengaluru on Sunday reported 17 new cases of Black Fungus infection. All the patients have been admitted to Victoria Hospital. The total number of patients being treated in Bowring and Victoria Hospitals has gone up to 94, he added.

Vaccination begins for 18-plus age category at Private Hospitals

No slots available for next three days

Mysuru, May 24 (MTY&SSV)- Vaccination for people in the age group of 18 to 44 years began at JSS Multi-Speciality Hospital in city this morning. The cost per dose of Covaxin is Rs. 1,150 which included GST and service charges of Rs. 100.

The slot in the online portal, which was opened for registration for next three days, got sold out within minutes.

Dr. K.B. Chetak, in-charge of vaccination at JSS Hospital, said daily, around 180 to 200 people will be given vaccination. Second dose must be taken after four weeks. Those who have registered their names can take the vaccine today or tomorrow.

Meanwhile, paid vaccination for 18-plus age category of population has been going on at Apollo BGS Hospitals where Rs. 850 is charged for the first dose of Covishield vaccine. As many as 700 are vaccinated daily, said N.G. Bharateesh Reddy, Vice-President and Unit Head, Apollo BGS Hospitals.

MP Pratap Simha visits Maternity Block at Seth Mohandas Tulsidas Hospital

Mysuru, May 24 (MTY&DM)- Taking a break from the buzz around COVID Hospitals, MP Pratap Simha, this morning, visited the new Maternity Block at the renovated Seth Mohandas Tulsidas Hospital on JLB Road, where a 100-oxygenated bed COVID Hospital has started functioning.

Speaking after inspecting the block, Simha said that the Block is an exclusive 50-bed Maternity Hospital. Pointing out that following an appeal by the authorities to ease the pressure on Cheluvamba Hospital, MUDA Chairman H.V. Rajeev took initiatives for completing the Maternity Block at Tulsidas Hospital, the MP said that the 50-bed Block will be ready for service in a couple of days. Hoping that the Hospital will become a landmark for maternity and child care in the coming days, he said that specialist doctors from Cheluvamba Hospital will visit this new maternity facility.

Asserting that the Government was taking all steps to contain the spread of the deadly virus, Simha said that today, he handed over five Oxygen Concentrators donated by his fellow MP from Bengaluru South Tejaswi Surya to Seth Mohandas Tulsidas Hospital, where about 100 COVID infected patients are currently undergoing treatment. Maintaining that MUDA and other authorities had worked hard for setting up the COVID Hospital at a short notice, he lauded the efforts of MUDA Chairman H.V. Rajeev, who took great pains to ensure the start of the Hospital by providing necessary infrastructure and expediting works. N. Raghavan of Raghulal and Co. donated 100 oxygen masks on the occasion.

MUDA Chairman H.V. Rajeev, ZAK Chairman L.R. Mahadevaswamy, JLR Chairman M. Appanna, the Hospital's Medical fraternity Dr. Bhargava and Dr. Anand and others were present.

First dose of jab for specially-abled

Mysuru, May. 24 (RKB&KS) - The first dose of COVID vaccine to specially-abled persons aged 18 to 44 years began at the District Disability Rehabilitation Centre at Tilaknagar here this morning. The drive has been organised by Department for Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, which will go on for a few days.

The Mobile Medical Unit, headed by retired District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Parashivamurthy and comprising five medical and para-medical staff are conducting the drive.

The family members of specially-abled persons brought them to the vaccination centre in the morning, where the medical staff vaccinated them with Covisheild. Dr. Parashivamurthy said that 200 specially-abled persons would be vaccinated in a day and added that the caretakers of these specially-abled persons will also be vaccinated once this drive concludes. District Disability Welfare Officer R. Malini, District Disability Rehabilitation Nodal Officer H.R. Arjun and others were present.

Changeover Switch Board Panel destroyed by fire at ZP office

Mysuru, May 24 (MTY&DM)- The Changeover Switch Board panel at Mysuru ZP Office here was destroyed by a minor fire that broke out yesterday morning, causing panic among local residents.

At about 7 am, security personnel heard bursting sounds coming from the switch board room and on inspecting the room they noticed continuous sparks emanating from the Electric Panel Board and informed CESC authorities. But even before CESC authorities could arrive at the spot, the sparks developed into fire, resulting in burning of four switch boxes in the Panel Board, while four others were partially burnt. The CESC authorities immediately disconnected the power supply. The fire is said to have been caused by a short circuit in the Panel Board, which is meant for connecting the generator with power lines.

CESC authorities are carrying out repairs and working towards restoring power in the ZP office as early as possible.

Lakshmipuram Inspector Venkatesh and staff visited the spot.

Miscreants set fire to garbage dump in Lansdowne Building

Mysuru, May 24 (MK&KS)- Tension prevailed for some time at the dilapidated and shut Lansdowne Building when the public noticed fire at one of the shops in the ground floor yesterday morning. It is suspected that miscreants had allegedly lit fire to a garbage pile, which resulted in the garbage burning for more than an hour.

Devaraja Traffic Police personnel, who were on duty near K.R. Circle, noticed the fire and informed Saraswathipuram Fire Station. The Fire and Emergency Services personnel from Saraswathipuram, who rushed to the spot, managed to douse the fire and prevented it from spreading further.

Meanwhile, a few shopkeepers alleged that illegal activities take place at the building which is lying vacant since many years and added that miscreants also break the doors and windows of shops and set fire to it.

They also informed that the building is used by drunkards, who come in groups to the dilapidated building to consume liquor and break empty bottles and discard plastic waste in the building which accumulates as days go by.

Govt. Hospitals in DK, Udupi nominated for NQAS certification

Mangaluru, May 24 (UNI)- A total of 13 Government Hospitals including four Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in Dakshina Kannada (DK) and Udupi districts have been nominated for the prestigious **National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS)** certification by the Union Government.

The selection for this certification is based on criteria like quality of service, records management and hygiene.

In Dakshina Kannada, a total of 10 departments of Wenlock Hospital, six departments of Lady Goschen Hospital, Community Health Centres of Mulki and Moodbidri, PHCs of Shirthady and Naravi and Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) of Jeppu have been selected for the certification while in Udupi, the District Hospital at Ajjarakadu, Women and Children's Hospital, PHC of Shanker Narayana and Community Health Centres of Kota and Brahmavara have been chosen.

Rs. 17.50 lakh cash looted from ATM at Maddur

Maddur, May 24 (KS)- A group of thieves, making use of the lockdown and after noticing the absence of security at an ATM, have decamped with Rs. 17.50 lakh cash after cutting open the ATM machine with a gas cutter last night.

The robbery took place at the SBI Bank ATM kiosk in Kolli Circle in Maddur.

The gang of burglars, who first destroyed the CCTV camera installed in front of the kiosk, entered inside, broke open the ATM using a gas cutter and decamped with the cash in it. They had thrown away a few parts of the ATM machine in front of the LIC Office.

Following complaint, ASP V. Dhananjaya, Dy.SP Lakshminarayana Prasad, Circle Inspector Bharat Gowda, Sub-Inspector Naveen Gowda and other Police officials inspected the spot.

Meanwhile, SP Dr. Ashwini said that a Special Police team led by Dy.SP Lakshminarayana Prasad has been formed and assured that the culprits would be brought to book soon.

Medar, Soliga communities demand special COVID package

Masthamma

Hanagod, May 24- Masthamma, a native doctor and recipient of Kannada Rajyotsava award, has urged the State Government to announce a special COVID package for Soliga and Medar community as they have been hit hard due to the current lockdown.

She told *SOM* that the Medar community, who are into making different varieties of items from bamboo, have been badly hit in the current second wave and have been rendered jobless. There are hundreds of families belonging to the two communities who earn their livelihood by selling baskets, cages, fans and other items made from bamboo and sell them in shandies, she added.

She further said that with complete lockdown in force, there was no permission to hold shandies and sell their products to eke out a living. "Their families are in dire straits and the Government has also reduced the free supply of rice from 5 kg to 3 kg per person which has only escalated their problems. In view of this, the Government must announce a special package for the Medar and Soliga communities without delay," she said.

Siddharamaiah eyeing to contest from Chamarajpet?

Bengaluru, May 24 (KMS&DM)- With the State Assembly polls still two years away, Opposition Leader and former Chief Minister Siddharamaiah is said to be planning to contest from Chamarajpet Assembly segment in Bengaluru city in the 2023 polls.

Siddharamaiah

Siddharamaiah, who currently represents Badami Assembly segment in Bagalkot district of North Karnataka, is now learnt to be eyeing Chamarajpet constituency in the State Capital, which is currently represented by his fellow Congress Legislator Zameer Ahmed Khan.

Siddharamaiah, who as Chief Minister, had contested from two Assembly segments — his home constituency Chamundeshwari in Mysuru and Badami in Bagalkot district in the 2018 Assembly polls — lost badly to G.T. Devegowda of the JD(S) in Chamundeshwari and managed to win by a thin margin of 1,700 votes in Badami, defeating B. Sriramulu of the BJP.

Now three years later, Siddharamaiah is planning to ditch Badami too and eyeing Chamarajpet, which he now considers as more favourable to him in the present circumstances.

Eyeing the Chamarajpet segment, Siddharamaiah is visiting programmes in the constituency more than often, which has led credentials to the speculation that the Opposition Leader may contest from this constituency after ditching distant Badami Assembly segment, which he seems to have lost interest in.

Chamarajpet is a minority dominated constituency, which is currently represented by Siddu's close aid Zameer Ahmed Khan, who is willing to forego the constituency in favour of Siddharamaiah.

Minister calls for total lockdown in Tibetan Colony at Bylakuppe

Mysuru, May 24 (UNI)- Minister for Co-operation S.T. Somashekar, who is also the District in-Charge Minister, on Sunday said that there has been an increase in COVID cases in Tibetan Colony at Bylakuppe and asked the Mysuru District Administration to impose a lockdown.

Speaking to press persons after visiting Health Centres of the Hunsur Constituency and the COVID Care Centre, he said it was necessary to clamp lockdown at Bylakuppe Tibetan Colony and see that everything should be supplied to them and no one should be allowed to come out and go to the Colony from other places.

He also set a goal for Panchayat Development Officers (PDOs) to conduct household surveys in both Periyapatna and Hunsur taluk with the help of Anganvadi and ASHA workers and submit a report to the District Administration.

As a precautionary measure, all those involved in survey works should be provided with a kit including a face shield.

He also announced that a District-level Committee headed by MP Pratap Singh has been formed to deal with a possible third wave that is expected to come after the second wave of Corona and take precautionary measures. The Committee has been asked to submit its report within a week, he added.

KPCC Women's Wing President appeals to save children from COVID

Mysuru, May 24 (PM&DM)- With experts warning that a probable third wave of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic is likely to target children the most, KPCC Women's Wing State President Dr. Pushpa Amarnath appealed the Government to save our children from the possible catastrophe.

Addressing a press meet at Congress Bhavan near the City Railway Station here yesterday, Dr. Pushpa Amaranth said that she has written to the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister stressing on the need for saving children, who are the country's future, from the probable third wave of the deadly pandemic which is likely to happen in the last part of the year.

Pointing out that she herself is a mother of two girl children, Dr. Pushpa said she appeals Prime Minister Narendra Modi with folded hands to save our children from the deadly attack.

Accusing the Central and State Governments of doing little for preventing the third wave strike, she said that rural children are facing a lot of nutritional issues due to the suspension of Mid-Day Meals as schools are shut.

Questioning the Government on whether there are any plans for boosting immunity among children, she targeted the Government for failing to take measures to prevent the second wave even when there was a wide gap between COVID outbreak last year and the second wave that has struck recently.

Noting that many engineers in various departments had remained idle in the wake of pandemic, she urged the Government to set up Oxygen Plants in all 224 Assembly segments of the State by using the services of these engineers. The Government can set up these Plants in a month at a cost of Rs. 100 crore, she added.

Urging the BJP MPs of the State to exert pressure on the Union Government for vaccinating all eligible age groups in the State as Karnataka leads in Tax collection, she urged the ultra rich to contribute their mite for vaccinating everyone in the country.

Charging the Government of failing to provide beds to Mucormycosis (Black Fungus) patients, she alleged that Bengaluru's Bowing and Victoria Hospitals, where treatment is given for Black Fungus, had refused admission to a patient from Raichur even after a day long wait. She urged the Government to dedicate enough number of beds for Black Fungus patients at the two Bengaluru Hospitals.

City Women's Congress President and former Mayor Pushpalatha Chikkanna, Vice-President Pushpavalli and others were present during the press meet.

Mandya DC orders four days complete closure of shops

Mandya, May 24 (MR&SSV)- In view of continuous increase in the number of Corona positive cases and deaths, the District Administration of Mandya has ordered a complete lockdown in district for four days in a week with immediate effect. People will be allowed to do shopping of essentials only three days a week.

S. Aswathi

Permission has been denied to hold marriages from May 24-29 to avoid crowding of people. However, on May 27, only Government activities are permitted from 6 am to 10 am.

Disclosing this at a news conference here on Saturday, Deputy Commissioner Aswathi said on May 25, 26, 28 and 29, all shops except medical services, medical shops, milk booths will remain closed and citizens are not permitted to come out to buy essentials.

On May 23, 24 and 27, people are permitted to buy essentials between 6 am and 10 am. However, all agriculture activities related shops are permitted to open from 6 am to 6 pm.

The godown, Fair Price Shops and industrial-related activities that have been given permission, are allowed to open from 6 am to 10 am. The movement of goods vehicles is allowed.

The DC has warned of filing cases against those who flout rules.

Minister adopts tiger at City Zoo

Mysuru, May 24 (RKB)- Mines and Geology Minister Murugesh Nirani has adopted a tiger at Mysore Zoo under its 'Adoption of Animals' scheme.

The Minister, who was in city on Sunday for the progress review of the Mines and Geology Department, took details on adoption of animals at Zoo from Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) Chairman L.R. Mahadevaswamy who was at the spot and announced at the press meet that he had adopted the tiger in the name of his grandson Samarth Vijay Nirani.

Obituary

Nandeesh G. Urs

Mysuru, May 24- Nandeesh G. Urs (50), a resident of Sharadadevi Nagar, passed away this morning at a private hospital in city, following brief illness. He leaves behind his wife Amba Urs, son Kaushik Urs, daughter Deepanjali Urs and a host of relatives and friends.

Nandeesh was the Founder of Nalwadi Foundation, President of Aramane Horata Samithi and a social worker. Last rites were held today in city.

K.V. Sheshadri

K.V. Sheshadri (87), a resident of Vidyaranyapuram, passed away yesterday morning in city.

A native of Kampalapura in Periyapatna taluk, he leaves behind his wife, four daughters, sons-in-law and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill yesterday afternoon.

Alhaj Syed Sirajuddin Khadri

Alhaj Syed Sirajuddin Khadri (70), retired Canara Bank Tilaknagar branch employee and a resident of Bannimantap 'C' Layout, passed away yesterday morning in city following brief illness.

He leaves behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Namaz-e-Janaza and burial took place at the Muslim Burial Grounds, near Tipu Circle yesterday.

Ponnimada T. Somaiah

Madikeri: Ponnimada T. Somaiah (Apputu), passed away at his daughter's residence at Naladi village, Kakkabe in Madikeri taluk yesterday. He was 90.

He leaves behind three daughters and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were held at Kodava Samaja Crematorium in Virajpet this noon.

Selvanaik

Hanur: Selvanaik (38), a young scientist and a resident of Gundapura village, passed away yesterday following brief illness.

He leaves behind his father Subbanaik, mother Susheela Bai, wife Niveditha, two children and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed yesterday.

Selvanaik, who was working as a Scientist in China since 10 years, had returned to his native place in December 2019 when the first wave of COVID-19 pandemic broke out in China.

His health deteriorated about 15 days ago and he breathed his last yesterday.

WORD OF THE DAY

Copious

Pronunciation: KOH-pee-us.
Meaning: Yielding something abundantly, plentiful in number; full of thought, information, or matter; profuse or exuberant in words, expression, or style; present in large quantity : taking place on a large scale.
Origin: Copious dates to the 14th century, during the era of English known as Middle English. Like most terms entering the language then, it comes ultimately from Latin, from the word copia, meaning "abundance." (Cornucopia combines this same root with cornu, meaning "horn," to form the phrase "horn of plenty.") Latin copia combines the prefix co- and -op, * ops, meaning "wealth" or "power." (That asterisk means that ops is assumed to have existed or has been reconstructed by means of comparative evidence.) The latter also features in the history of opulent, meaning "wealthy" or "luxurious."
Example: Jacqueline took copious notes during the long lecture and shared them with the rest of her study group.

THE ODD WORD

Abecedism

Word created from the initials of words in a phrase.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Baby father

Meaning: The father of an infant who is not married to or in an exclusive relationship with the mother.
Origin: This is a Jamaican phrase which has been adopted into wider UK usage via the Jamaican community in England. It is known to be in use in the West Indies since the early 20th century. A society's need for and adoption of such a term says something about the attitudes toward marriage, that is, it implies a society with a significant proportion of single mothers. The first evidence one can find of it in print is in a court report in the Kingston newspaper The Gleaner, in July 1932: "I was returning from my baby father's house." It began to be used widely in the UK in the 1990s, although it is still most commonly used in the black community. The Independent had an article about teenage pregnancy in October 1993, which included this: Tiana [Green, aged 17] said she wanted to have more children. Her dream was to get married to her "baby-father" and to have babies "in the wedlock". The BBC screened a drama series called 'Baby Father' in 2002. That title was something of a play on words as the absent fathers were portrayed in the series as irresponsible and babyish. Of course, where there are fathers there are also mothers. The term 'baby mother' is also used but is less common. This isn't quite the mirror image of 'baby father' as it is invariably the mother who takes day-to-day care of the children.

QUOTE BOX

I am prepared for the worst, but hope for the best. **—Benjamin Disraeli**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

Answer: Fancy that.

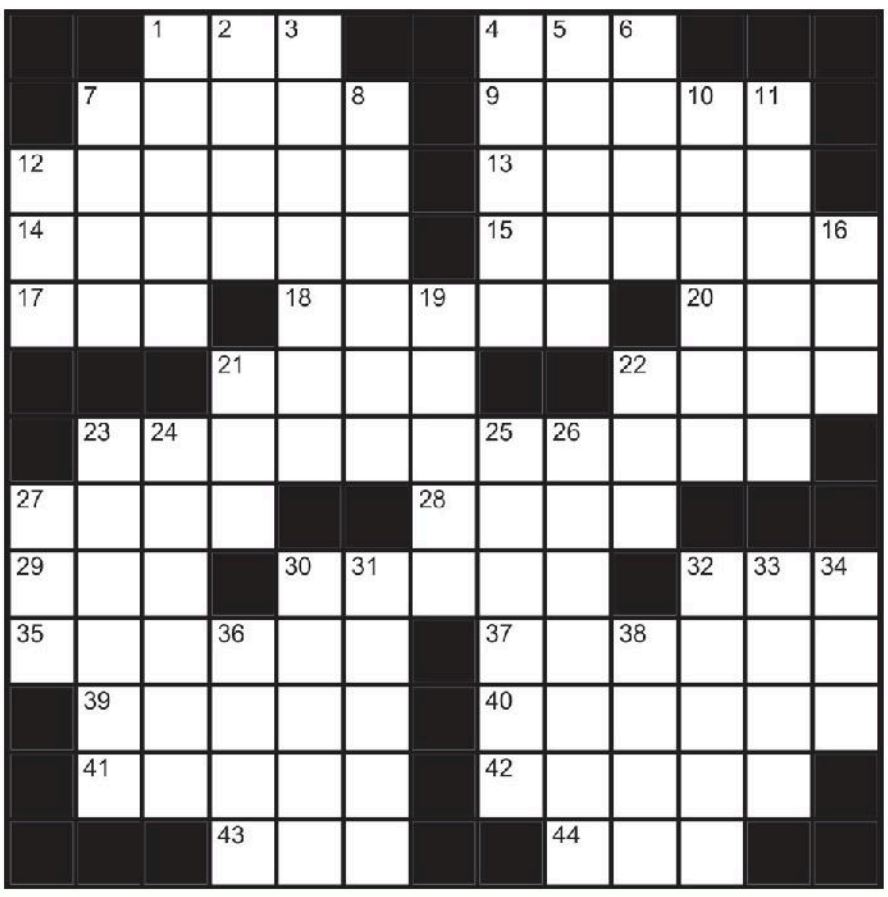
CROSS WORD

ACROSS:
1 Young lion, for example
4 Briny - Arabian for one
7 Gold measure
9 Italian isle
12 Arctic plain
13 Flu type
14 Manger
15 Put up opposition
17 A Japanese copper coin
18 Pointed at a target?
20 Soapy water or soap bubble
21 A people of Japan
22 Applies lubricants to
23 Important; noteworthy
27 Display or practice model (abbrev.)
28 Thank God It's Friday, acronym
29 Equal Time Point
30 Culpability
32 Vacancy, abbr.
35 Flat-topped straw hat with brim
37 Boorish; loutish
39 Threw or hurled?
40 Black Sea port in Ukraine
41 Prima ___ : at first sight of evidence?
42 Attacked or engaged in a fight (3,2)
43 Leather made from the skin of a young goat
44 Tutelary god in ancient Rome

DOWN
1 Clerical dignitary
2 Asian language
3 Advantageous purchase
4 Frighten or startle
5 Relaxed
6 Army Photographic Intell. Serv.
7 Restore to health or relieve of disease
8 Sesame paste
10 Partially dried grape
11 Affront
12 Time To Station, abbr.
16 Tax deducted at source, in short
19 Civilian dress
21 In the past
22 Lummox
23 Begin a journey (3,3)
24 South African antelope or posh car?
25 Ice-houses for Inuits
26 City fortress
27 Colloquial word for a young debutante
30 Very clever people
31 Persuaded or induced
32 Eye shield
33 Org.
34 Afternoon refresher of local origin?
36 Fold of fabric
38 White cheese

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

L	X	I	■	A	P	S	E	■	F	R	O	G
E	E	N	■	P	A	L	I	■	L	E	I	A
A	D	D	I	C	T	E	D	■	E	A	S	T
■	■	E	R	A	S	E	■	V	A	L	E	T
T	A	C	O	■	Y	P	R	E	S	■	■	■
O	L	E	N	T	■	Y	E	N	■	T	B	A
S	E	N	S	E	S	■	P	O	P	E	Y	E
S	E	T	■	M	A	C	■	M	I	N	E	R
■	■	■	A	P	P	A	L	■	P	E	S	O
V	E	L	D	T	■	T	O	T	E	M	■	■
A	U	R	A	■	E	N	T	I	R	E	L	Y
P	R	O	M	■	T	A	U	T	■	N	E	E
I	O	N	S	■	A	P	S	O	■	T	E	T



SUDOKU

						2		
			1		8	5		
1	7		6	3				
	4		9		6	1	2	
		7				6		
	9	6	7		1		5	
				8	7		6	4
		9	5		4			
		4						

Answer to previous puzzle

2	1	8	9	6	5	7	3	4
3	7	5	8	4	2	9	1	6
4	9	6	7	1	3	5	8	2
5	4	9	3	8	6	1	2	7
7	6	1	4	2	9	8	5	3
8	3	2	5	7	1	6	4	9
1	2	3	6	5	7	4	9	8
9	8	7	1	3	4	2	6	5
6	5	4	2	9	8	3	7	1

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

UCVMGPVMU F QCCY MJPG PU

FKK NCZ RFX FUS ECL.

TODAY'S CLUE: Z EQUALS U

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: The minute one utters a certainty, the opposite comes to mind.

Project COVI (Covid Village) REACH for COVID-free Gram Panchayat launched

Mysuru, May 24 - Following rising COVID-19 cases in villages, Grassroots Research And Advocacy Movement (GRAAM) launched its five-point programme — project COVIReach (CO-COVID, VI-Village-Reach) in seven Gram Panchayats of Mysuru taluk which was implemented under the leadership and guidance of Chamundeshwari MLA G.T. Devegowda.

Project action plan has been modified as per the guidance of Mysuru District and Taluk Administration.

The GRAAM's new initiative was launched by Deputy Chief Minister Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan at the Zilla Panchayat premises in city on May 20. He appreciated GRAAM's initiative and urged the public to replicate the similar model in other Panchayats and to join their hands with the Government to fight Corona.

In his Presidential address GRAAM Founder and Chairman Dr. R. Balasubramaniam said "Our intention is to conceptualise a new model through conducting community based activities along with Gram Panchayats, Self Help Organisations and the Government. We are trying to introduce a model to the country which has been verified by the action research."

Speaking after inaugurating the project by distributing medicine kits, MLA G.T. Devegowda said, "This programme will help in controlling the third wave and to make Mysuru Taluk a COVID-free taluk." He expressed his confidence about the success of the programme.

Some of the services available under this programme are: Formation and activation of Village-level Task Force in seven Gram Panchayats and 56 villages of Mysuru Taluk; GRAAM will also share the responsibilities of the Gram Panchayats in handling the COVID condition in rural Mysuru; Distribution of IEC materials to around 35,000 villagers and create awareness through audio announcement in 56 villages; Distribution of 2,000 masks; Distribution of food kits, medicine kits and home isolation kits to 350 selected COVID affected families; Distribution of COVID awareness kit to 3,500 families; Tele consultation support to over 500 COVID positive families; Distribution of digital thermometers and pulse oximeters to ASHA workers in Mysuru Taluk and so on.

Besides, providing necessary support for 70 families who have lost their bread earners; Intensifying vaccination drive for the eligible and helping beneficiaries collect their certificates; Identifying volunteers in 56 villages and utilising their services; Disseminating awareness messages through Creating 56 WhatsApp groups; Taking necessary steps to provide necessary services to the vulnerable communities; Providing vehicle facility to transport the deceased and conducting an action research on control and management of COVID in Gram Panchayats.

Earlier, GRAAM Executive Director Dr. Basavaraju R. Shreshta welcomed and introduced the concept of the project. He said that at present, rural areas have outnumbered the COVID cases than its urban counterparts and added that controlling will be very challenging if it spreads in the rural area, where access to testing and medical care is limited. Hence, GRAAM introduces it's five point programme — Strengthening COVID Task Force at Gram Panchayats; Formation of volunteer groups; Involving Community based groups (SHG, co-operative society); Administrative-moral & safety support for frontline workers and utilising the support of Non-governmental organisations for the capacity building and accumulating the resources.

Chamaraja MLA L. Nagendra, Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri, MCC Commissioner Shilpa Nag, City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta, Zilla Panchayat CEO A.M. Yogeesh, District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. T. Amarnath, Tahsildar Rakshit and others were present during the launch.

GRAAM will be taking up its initiatives at Gopalapura Gram Panchayat (GP), Beerihundi GP, Gungral Chatra GP, Ananduru GP, Jayapura GP, Dhangalli GP and Harohalli (J) Gram Panchayats as per the directions of the Mysuru Taluk Tahsildar and the DHO.

Tribute to Press Photographer Netra Raju

Mysuru, May 24 (RKB&DM)- The Mysuru Photo and Video Journalists Association has condoled the death of senior press photographer Netra Raju, who passed away in city recently.

Floral tributes were offered to the portrait of the departed senior photographer at a condolence meeting held at the Institution of Engineers on JLB Road here yesterday.

Speaking at the condolence meeting, 'Law Guide' monthly magazine Editor Venkatesh said that Netra Raju had rendered remarkable service as a press photographer for decades. As a mark of respect, the monthly magazine has proposed to present Pratibha Puraskar of Rs.10,000 to each of the children of members of Photo and Video Journalists Association, who score high marks in SSLC every year, he added.

Association President Pragathi Gopalakrishna recalled Netra Raju's commitment and dedication to the profession. Pointing out that the extraordinary skills of Netra Raju was an inspiration for budding photographers, he said that his professionalism and creativity brought him name and fame.

He pointed out that Netra Raju will always be remembered for his outstanding photographs that have made a big impact on the society.

Mysuru District Journalists Association (MDJA) Vice-President M.S. Basavanna (Anurag Basavaraj), Press Photographers M.N. Lakshminarayana Yadav, M.N. Sriram, Hampa Nagaraj and S. Udayshankar, journalists Ram, K.P. Nagaraj, Naveen, Karthik, Vatal Anand, M.T. Yogesh Kumar and others were present.

COVID LOCKDOWN

City Police seize 330 vehicles moving around unnecessarily

Mysuru, May 24 (KS)- The Mysuru City Police (Traffic and Law & Order), who are taking all steps to prevent people moving around in their vehicles unnecessarily in city, conducted checking of vehicles yesterday and have seized a total of 382 vehicles that were found violating the lockdown guidelines by moving around freely on city roads.

The Traffic and Law & Order Police personnel, who conducted checking of vehicles at various places in city have seized 330 two-wheelers, 50 cars, one auto rickshaw and one more vehicle, which were found flouting the lockdown rules.

City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta has urged the public not to move around unnecessarily and obey the guidelines besides asking them to co-operate with the Police.

Little girl gets a new phone; but her mother's old phone?

Youth Congress members handing over a new mobile phone to Hrithiksha yesterday.

Kushalnagar, May 24 (Akshay &BCT)- The story of a little girl who made an appeal through an open letter to Kodagu Deputy Commissioner, MLAs and to the staff of Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) to find her late mother's mobile phone which has been stolen from a KIMS ward has gone viral. This has drawn the attention of Director General and Inspector General of Police Praveen Sood who has said, "Our team is on the job to trace the phone."

Holding the letter in her hand, Hrithiksha, daughter of a painter in Kushalnagar, has said that the phone had some of the best photos and videos of her mother showing the happy moments of the family, snatched by the killer epidemic now. "Please find and return my mother's phone," she had appealed. *Star of Mysore* had published a story yesterday titled 'My late mother's phone is filled with her memories'.

Hrithiksha hails from Basappa Extension in Gummanakolli village near Kushalnagar and has been living with her father Naveen. They are under quarantine now and have recovered from COVID. While handing over the belongings of her mother, the Hospital authorities did not return the phone, raising suspicion that some of the Hospital staff had stolen the phone.

Also, there were many complaints regarding theft of valuables from KIMS, the designated COVID Hospital at Madikeri and the absence of CCTV cameras inside the wards. A complaint was lodged in Kushalnagar Police Station and Praveen Sood tweeted later.

Meanwhile, the DC has asked Madikeri Town Police to trace the phone.

Dr. Kushwanth Kolibail from KIMS told reporters that there were over 10 mobile phones at KIMS that have not been claimed by the relatives of the victims who have lost their lives. "If any of the phones is found to be that of Hrithiksha's mother, it will be handed over to the family," he added.

Responding to the viral story, National Youth Congress President B.V. Srinivas and Karnataka Youth Congress leader Mohammed Harris Nalapad have sent a new mobile phone to the girl and the phone was handed over to Hrithiksha yesterday by S.P. Haneef and other Youth Congress members. The youths also promised to help Hrithiksha in online education.

Bengaluru lady Cops honour lockdown violators by garlanding, performing 'arathi'

Bengaluru, May 24 (UNI)- Violators of COVID-19 guidelines were honoured with garland and 'arathi' by lady Police personnel who have come out with a novel idea to create awareness among the public against coming out of their houses without any reason as the pandemic is spreading like a wildfire in the State capital.

"We were forced to come up with this idea to educate people who have not learned lessons despite the fact that people are dying every day due to the pandemic. We stop the violators and after learning that they are roaming on the streets without any valid reason, garland them and perform 'arathi' to teach them a lesson," said Police Sub-Inspector Manjunath, who was behind implementing this idea on the busy Tumakuru Road.

Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, who was taken to task by the Opposition parties, had directed Police Officers to handle the violators of lockdown with a firm hand and see that people will not dare to violate the rules and remain in their houses during the lockdown period.

Police are dealing against violators by seizing vehicles and booking cases against them. A Police officer told that it is not easy to get the seized vehicle by just paying a fine, the case goes to Court and it takes at least six months to get the vehicle released.

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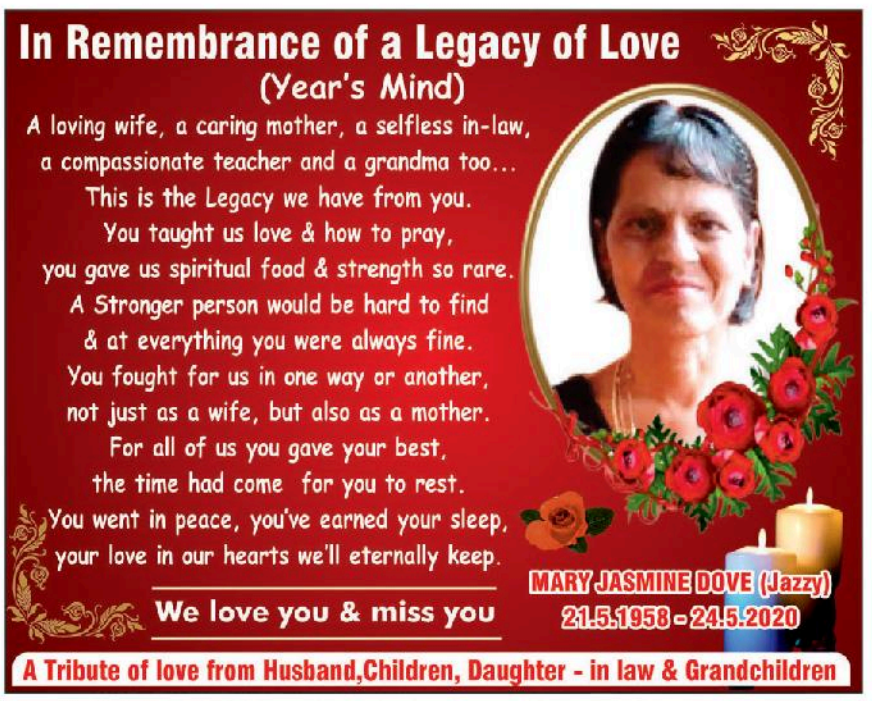
NOTICE INVITING e- TENDER

Chief Engineer, BARC, Mysuru invites for & on behalf of the President of India, sealed item rate tenders from experienced contractors with sound financial & technical capacity for following work(s).

Tender Reference No.	**BARC/MYS/CES/24/2020-21**
Name of work	Formation of inner Patrolling Road along the Compound wall at BARC Plant site, Mysuru.
Estimated Cost	₹ **1,10,00,000/-** (Rupees One Crore Ten Lakhs Only)
Period of Completion	**06 (Six) months**
Earnest Money Deposit	**NIL**
Sale of Tender Documents	From **25.05.2021 (11:00 Hrs)** to **08.06.2021 (18.00 Hrs)**

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from web site **www.tenderwizard.in/dae** and **www.barc.gov.in**

Chief Engineer, BARC
For & on behalf of President of India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not just as a wife, but also as a mother.
For all of us you gave your best,
the time had come for you to rest.
You went in peace, you've earned your sleep,
your love in our hearts we'll eternally keep.
We love you & miss you
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